GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES AND MINERALS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2380
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2000
EXPLORATION OF GOLD BY MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Multi-National Companies have been given permission for exploration and mining of gold and diamonds in the country between 1996 to 1998;

(b) if so, the details of such MNCs;

(c) whether these MNCs have started the exploration and mining work;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the fresh steps taken to devise a quick process based on transparent criteria to enable these companies to get down to business as early as possible?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS
(SMT. RITA VERMA)

(a): Under Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, only an Indian national or a company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section(3) of the Companies Act, 1956 can be granted a prospecting licence or mining lease for exploration or mining of minerals including gold and diamonds. As such, under the existing scheme of the mining legislation, a foreign company is not allowed to undertake prospecting/mining operations.

(b) to(e) : Does not arise.